

Jonathan Baldock & Coco Crampton 'Protected Space'

15.09.14 – 11.10.14

Private view: Monday 15th September 2014, 6 – 8pm



Eagle feather, blonde tortoise shell, diamond & silver French Belle Époque fan. Photography: Ryan Davies

Julia Muggenburg is pleased to announce the exhibition 'Protected Space' which pairs the artists Jonathan Baldock and Coco Crampton and their site specific work, that stems from the conception of the hand held fan.

Fans are curious objects that have spanned millennia and have been used to give a sense of shelter, to fan air and fire and to conceal from the sun. A mechanical sculpture that became more ornate over time and was made from a multitude of materials as diverse as the cultures that used them.

Imagery was introduced depicting legends and stories, such as high and low scenes of Arcadia until finally it was used as a form of advertising novelty goods; perfume, air travel, restaurants etc, which were hand painted or printed on to them to carry the message.

Its structure was based and evolved from the shape of a leaf. What began in nature and evolved as a complex device ends up now as obsolete due to the demands of today. Looking at fans one easily connects to its multifaceted functions, however we must not forget that in Europe an actual language of the fan etiquette existed which allowed individuals to conduct secret communications and silent flirtations.

The artists have divided up the Belmacz space to create a sympathetic dialogue around this theme and its conditions. Both are concerned with the tensions and dilemmas that lie between form and function.

Jonathan Baldock's multi faceted and multi disciplinary practice; sculptures, costumes and masks that are worn in performances are all a form of transformation, which is a reoccurring theme in his work. His costumes become a new skin to live in, a place of concealment and protection, the masks a place where you can "be yourself". His sculptures are like totemic devices that invite one to interfere or tamper with.

Baldock creates a visual language using ordinary materials that are more commonly used by a crafts person, bringing the materials and costumes to life by the performative side of his practice.

Coco Crampton is influenced by and borrows aspects of pre-existing design, for instance Ernest Race's 'Penguin Donkey Mark 2' bookcase. Crampton said that she "wanted to hijack the form of Race's design but not the function". Crampton removes the function of her objects whilst simultaneously giving the idea of utility and use, re-imagining dwelling spaces or places of social encounter. Rendering bold, simplified pieces that become subtle, emotional carriers of the artist's imagination.

Jonathan Baldock was born in the UK in 1980. He graduated from Winchester School of Art in 2003, followed by The Royal College of Art in 2005.

Recent solo shows include *The Soft Machine*, Chapter, Cardiff; *Hot Spots*, The Apartment, Vancouver; *Multiple points in this crude landscape*, Primary, Nottingham (2014); *A strange cross between a butcher's Shop and a night club*, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge (2013) and *The Blue Epoch*, Colloredo — Mansfeldský Palác, AMoYA, Prague, Czech (2012). Recent group exhibitions include *A Conspiracy of Detail*, The Mackintosh Museum, Glasgow, UK (2013); *ARE YOU ALRIGHT? New Art From Britain*, Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA), Toronto, Canada (2013) and *For Summer Is A Come Unto Day*, Belmacz, London (2013). In 2013 Jonathan received the Abbey Fellowship at the British School in Rome (Italy).

Jonathan Baldock lives and works in London.

Coco Crampton was born in London 1983. She graduated from Norwich School of Art and Design in 2005 and completed a Post-graduate Diploma in Fine Art at the Royal Academy Schools, London this year.

Solo exhibitions include *Bonne Bouche*, The Cut, Halesworth (2010) and *Swing*, OUTPOST Gallery, Norwich (2007). Recent group exhibitions include *Royal Academy Schools Show 2014*, London; *At Home Salon*, Marcelle Joseph Projects, Ascot (2014); *Peachy*, Salt+Powell, York (2014); *Circus TM*, Belmacz, London (2014); *Premiums*, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2013); *A Thing is a Thing is a Thing*, The Minorities Gallery, Colchester (2012); *Slipped*, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge (2011).

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